



Standards & Assessment UPDATE

From the Standards and Assessment Division

March 18, 2002

Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) Program

Performance Standards

The State Board of Education (SBE) accepted recommended performance levels for the California General Mathematics Standards Test and the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Year Integrated Mathematics Standards Tests. The proposed performance levels for these four tests will be distributed, and regional public hearings will be held during April to receive public input. The SBE will receive reports from the public hearings at its April 24/25 meeting and is expected to adopt performance levels for the four tests at that time. The adopted performance levels will be used to report the 2002 results.

Information about the proposed cut scores and public hearing dates and locations, is posted at www.cde.ca.gov/board on the Internet.

General Mathematics Standards Test

During spring 2002, all students in grades 8 and 9 are required to take a California General Mathematics Standards Test in addition to the Stanford 9 mathematics tests. In order to do this, a new General Mathematics Test was developed. All students in grades 8 and 9 are required to take this test if they are not yet taking algebra I, algebra II, geometry, or integrated math II, II, or III.

If the performance levels are formally adopted in April, the 2002 STAR Parent Reports will show the full range of student performance on the test (advanced, proficient, basic, below basic and far-below basic). The student reports, however, will include a statement indicating that students were tested only on mathematics standards for grades 6 and 7 rather than the mathematics standards-based courses designated for their grade.

SABE/2 Designation Extended

The SBE extended the *Spanish Assessment of Basic Education, Second Edition* (SABE/2) designation for the 2002–2003 school year. SABE/2 is the primary language test that is given as part of the STAR program to all Spanish-speaking English learners who are enrolled in California public schools fewer than 12 months at the time the norm-referenced and California Standards Tests are administered. These students are required to take the SABE/2 in addition to taking the norm-referenced test (currently Stanford 9) and the California Standards Tests.

California Teachers Being Hired to Score Grade-4 Writing Tests

San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE) has received a contract to arrange scoring for some of the California Writing Standards Test responses for grade 4. California teachers are being sought to score papers at the SJCOE site in Stockton. NCS/Pearson, Harcourt Educational Measurement's subcontractor for scoring the written responses, will train the readers and supervise all scoring sessions.

Teachers applying to serve as readers will be required to work for three weeks, from June 3 to June 21, at SJCOE in Stockton. Readers will be paid \$15 per hour and will provide their own transportation, lodging, etc. if they do not live within commuting distance from the scoring site. Interested teachers should call (209) 468-9260 for details and application procedures. This will be an excellent opportunity for California teachers to learn more about the California Writing Standards Tests for grade 4.

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California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE)

September Testing Dates Changed

The State Superintendent of Public Instruction has changed the September testing dates for the 2002 and 2003 administration of the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) out of respect for victims of 9-11-01. The newly-designated testing dates are September 17, 18 and 19, 2002, and September 16, 17, and 18, 2003. These new dates have been posted on the CAHSEE website at www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/cahsee on the Internet.

This Year's Eleventh Graders Do Not Take Exam

Numerous calls have been received about whether or not students in grade 11, who are likely to be deficient in credits and not be able to graduate with the class of 2003, should be administered the CAHSEE. The Legal Office of the California Department of Education (CDE) has reviewed the statute that governs the CAHSEE and related Education Code sections (in particular Section 60850 (e) regarding adequate notice) and issued the following conclusion:

"We conclude that, with respect to pupils graduating in the 2003-04 school year, the CAHSEE requirement applies only to those pupils who received notice of the test at the commencement of grade 9 and each year thereafter, or who took the CAHSEE in the tenth grade."

This means that students currently enrolled in grades 11 and 12 are not affected by the CAHSEE requirements, even if they do not have sufficient credits to graduate prior to the 2003-04 school year.

Accommodation/Modification Questions

Many questions have been received about whether or not students can take the CAHSEE with a calculator on the mathematics portion or an audio presentation on the English-language arts portion of the test. If a student's IEP or 504 plan designates either of these modifications for state testing, for any other standardized testing, or for classroom testing, that student must be allowed to use them on the CAHSEE. The answer sheet has a place to indicate that the test was taken with a modification, and the score report will indicate that the score is invalid. If the invalidated score is equal to a passing score, the district may submit a waiver on behalf of the student to waive the requirement to pass the CAHSEE for a diploma. More information on this is available on the CAHSEE website at www.cde.ca.gov/statetests/cahsee under "Administrative Documents." The State Board of Education has adopted a waiver policy that may be reviewed on the SBE

website at www.cde.ca.gov/board. Call us at (916) 657-3011 if you have any questions regarding accommodations or modifications for the May test. Please share this information with your schools.

New Teacher Guides Now Under Development

New CAHSEE Teacher Guides are currently under development by Educational Testing Service (ETS) and are scheduled to be posted in the summer of 2002. ETS will offer five workshops in August 2002 that will cover the contents of these documents as well as the released items from the spring 2002 test administration.

Available On The CAHSEE Website:

- The revised Parent Notification Assistance Packet has been posted under "Resources." This is the same Parent Packet that appeared in the 2001 *Accommodations Training Manual* distributed last fall.
- State-level item statistics for the spring 2001 administration are now available under the "Technical Information," located under "Resources."
- The HumRRO Report, *Independent Evaluation of the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE): Analysis of the 2001 Administration*, is available under "Independent Evaluation (HumRRO)."

Assessments in Career Education (ACE)

2001 Testing Window Set

This year's testing window for Assessments in Career Education (ACE) extends from May 1 through May 31, 2002. Completed registration forms should have been sent to Educational Data Systems (EDS) by February 22. If you have not received a confirmation of your registration call EDS at (800) 532-4424 and ask for the ACE Project Administrator.

For More Information...

For more information about any of the state assessments, contact the Standards and Assessment Division of the California Department of Education at (916) 657-3011 (phone), at (916) 657-4964 (fax), at STAR@cde.ca.gov (e-mail), or at www.cde.ca.gov (Internet). Your questions will be directed to the appropriate person.